

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

2001-012490

(43)Date of publication of application: 16.01.2001

(51)Int.CI.

F16D 3/26 B21D 53/86

(21)Application number: 11-180297

(71)Applicant: NSK LTD

(22)Date of filing:

25.06.1999

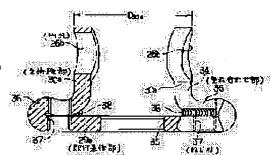
(72)Inventor: SEKINE HIROSHI

(54) YOKE FOR UNIVERSAL JOINT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To easily manufacture a yoke for a universal joint at a low cost and to ensure sufficient rigidity with easily assembled structure.

SOLUTION: A yoke 34 for a universal joint is formed by pressing a metal plate. A pair of supporting arm parts 30a, 30a are formed in the bent state in the same direction on both sides of a fitting base part 29a through overlap parts 36, 36. Circular holes 25b, 25b for pivotally supporting a joint cross are formed at the tip parts of the respective supporting arm parts 30a, 30a. Fitting holes such as threaded holes 37, 37 for thread-fastening a bolt for connecting the yoke 34 to the other member are formed at the respective overlap parts 36, 36.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

Copyright (C); 1998,2003 Japan Patent Office

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2,**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] One pair of support arms which bent the metal thickness plate, formed, changed and bent at the right angle mostly in this direction from the attachment substrate section and this attachment substrate section, In York for universal joints which was formed in the point of both [these] the support arm and which consists of one pair of circular holes of this alignment mutually, the edge of the above-mentioned attachment substrate section by turning up the part projected to the method of outside [lateral surface / of each above-mentioned support arm] 180 degrees It is York for universal joints characterized by forming each above-mentioned support arm in the condition of having bent from the toe of each [these] superposition section while considering as the superposition section which has the thickness for the two above-mentioned metal thickness plates mostly, and forming the mounting hole in each [these] superposition section.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.

2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.

3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] Since the universal joint for the steering systems of an automobile is constituted, York for universal joints concerning this invention is used.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The power steering system for automobiles transmits a motion of a steering wheel to steering gear through a steering shaft, and it constitutes it so that a rudder angle may be given to a steering wheel (generally front wheel). Since the mechanical transfer device constitutes such a power steering system, if it generally remains as it is, vibration which joined the steering wheel will be transmitted even to a steering wheel through steering gear or a steering shaft by bad road transit etc.

[0003] Thus, when the vibration accompanying bad road transit etc. is transmitted even to a steering wheel, in order to give an operator displeasure, he absorbs this vibration by preparing an elastic universal joint in the edge of a steering shaft, and is trying for vibration of a steering wheel not to get across even to a steering wheel as it is as indicated by JP.61-197820,A.

[0004] <u>Drawing 8</u> -9 show the elastic universal joint for steering shafts indicated by the above-mentioned official report. The flange 2 is fixed to the edge of the shaft 1 which leads to the steering gear which are not illustrated. This flange 2 is connected with York 4 set as the object of amelioration by this invention through the coupling member 3 made from elastic material, such as rubber. An elastic coupling absorbs vibration with the elasticity of this coupling member 3. Moreover, association of above-mentioned York 4 and the edge of a steering shaft 5 (refer to drawing 10 which shows a busy condition) is enabled through the spider 6 (<u>drawing 10</u>).

[0005] The above-mentioned flange 2 and the above-mentioned coupling member 3 are the two diameter direction opposite side locations, and it has joined together by the first coupling means. The first prevention plate 10 formed in the first bolts 7 and 7, first nut 8 and 8, and two diameter direction oppositions in the shape of [which has the radii-like first notching 9 and 9] a segmental circle constitutes this first coupling means. Namely, the first bolt 7 and 7 which inserted in the through-holes 11 and 11 formed in the two both-ends location of the above-mentioned flange 2 The inside of four through-holes 65 and 12 each other formed in the coupling member 3 at equal intervals, After penetrating one pair of through-holes 65 and 65 which exist in the diameter direction opposition and penetrating the through-holes 13 and 13 formed in the both ends of the prevention plate 10 of the above first, the first nut 8 and 8 is screwed and bound to the point.

[0006] On the other hand, above-mentioned York 4 and the above-mentioned coupling members 3 are the two diameter direction oppositions too, and it has joined together by the second coupling means. The second bolt 14 and 14, the second nut 15 and 15 and the prevention plate 10 of the above first, and the second prevention plate 16 formed in the shape of [same] a segmental circle constitute this second coupling means. Namely, the second bolt 14 and 14 which inserted in the through-hole 17 formed in the two both-ends location of York 4 end face After penetrating the remaining through-holes 12 and 12 among the four above-mentioned through-holes 65 and 12 formed in the coupling member 3 and penetrating the through-holes 18 and 18 formed in the both ends of the prevention plate 16 of the above second, the second nut 15 and 15 is screwed and bound to the point. [0007] Consequently, it will be in the condition of having been combined through the coupling member 3 made from elastic material, as [indicate / as the flange 2 and York 4 which were fixed to the edge of a shaft 1 / it / in drawing 9]. Thus, the elastic coupling constituted uses mutually above-mentioned York 4 and other York 19 as an elastic universal joint by combining a variation rate free through a spider 6, as shown in drawing 10. And said shaft 1 is combined with the input shaft of steering gear (not shown) through another universal joint 20 and connection rod 21 grade.

[0008] If a steering shaft 5 is rotated and York 4 is rotated through a spider 6 by operating the steering wheel which is not illustrated where an elastic universal joint is included in a steering system as mentioned above, the shaft 1 with which this rotation fixed propagation and this flange 2 to the flange 2 through the above-mentioned coupling member 3 will rotate. And this rotation is transmitted to steering gear through a universal joint 20 and the connection rod 21, and rudder angle grant to said steering wheel is performed. Since the above-mentioned coupling member 3 is built by elastic material, such as rubber, when vibration is transmitted from a steering wheel to a shaft 1, it prevents that York 4 where the coupling member 3 carries out elastic deformation to a hand of cut and shaft orientations, absorbs this vibration, and is connected to a steering shaft 5 vibrates.

[0009] In addition, the second sleeve 24 and 24 by which the second bolt 14 and 14 was inserted in the second

notching 23 and 23 by which the first sleeve 22 and 22 in which said first bolt 7 and 7 was inserted was formed in the second prevention plate 16 is engaging with the first notching 9 and 9 formed in the first prevention plate 10, respectively. And it twists and the variation rate covering a direction of said flange 2 and York 4 is possible only within limits (it is magnitude sufficient for oscillating absorption) which each sleeves 22 and 24 can move by the inside of each notching 23 and 9. The elastic deformation of the above-mentioned coupling member 3 becomes excessive, and this coupling member 3 seems not to damage for this reason.

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] In the case of York 4 included in the elastic universal joint for steering shafts which is constituted as mentioned above and acts, depending on the structure of an elastic universal joint Although it will be necessary to make in agreement the phase covering the circumferencial direction of the throughhole 17 for inserting in the second bolt 14 and 14 for combining with the coupling member 3, and the circular holes 25 and 25 for supporting the edge of a spider 6 The phase of both [these] the holes 17 and 25 cannot be made in agreement in the case of York 4 of a configuration conventionally which was shown in drawing 8 -9. The same of producing such un-arranging is said of the case of invention indicated by JP,57-172930,U.

[0011] Then, York 26 as shown in <u>drawing 11</u> was built by conventionally performing forging to metal material. York 26 shown in this <u>drawing 11</u> forms the screw-thread holes 27 and 27 for making said bolts 14 and 14 (<u>drawing 8</u> – 10) screw, and the circular holes 25a and 25a for supporting the edge of said spider 6 (<u>drawing 10</u>) while preparing a whole configuration by forging. However, when building York 26 by such forging, manufacture will be troublesome and cost will increase — there is the need of excising the chain-line part of this drawing and securing dimensional accuracy after forging.

[0012] On the other hand, York 28 as shown in the utility model registration No. 2572521 official report at drawing 12 is indicated. This York 28 bends a metal thickness plate, forms, changes, and changes from one pair of circular holes 25a and 25a of this alignment to each other who was formed in the attachment substrate section 29, one pair of support arms 30 and 30 which bent at the right angle mostly in this direction from the both ends of this attachment substrate section 29, and the point of both [these] the support arms 30 and 30. Furthermore, in the case of York for universal joints shown in above-mentioned drawing 12, bores 31 and 31 exist in the crosswise pars intermedia of the base of both the above-mentioned support arms 30 and 30, and in order to form each [these] bores 31 and 31, one pair of pieces 32 and 32 of attachment which bent some above-mentioned metal thickness plates at the right angle to each above-mentioned support arms 30 and 30 exist in the same flat surface as the above-mentioned attachment substrate section 29. And mounting holes 33 and 33 are formed in the point of each [these] pieces 32 and 32 of attachment, respectively.

[0013] It is not avoided instead of there being no un-arranging like York 4 and 26 shown in said <u>drawing 8</u> -11 in the case of York 28 shown in <u>drawing 12</u> which was mentioned above that the rigidity of each above-mentioned support arms 30 and 30 falls somewhat. When torque transmitted through York 28, such as a case for automobiles without power steering or a case for large-sized motor vehicles, becomes large for this reason, not necessarily effective lightweight-ization by it being necessary to enlarge thickness of a metal thickness plate etc. may be unable to be attained. Moreover, the part and the formation location of each above-mentioned circular holes 25a and 25a where each above-mentioned bores 31 and 31 exist in the base of each above-mentioned support arms 30 and 30 are limited, this sake — the height of each above-mentioned support arms 30 and 30 — a certain extent (to extent in which each bores 31 and 31 and circular holes 25a and 25a do not interfere) — it will be necessary to enlarge and small and lightweight-ization will become difficult at the rigid secured list of that part and each [these] support arms 30 and 30. York for universal joints of this invention is invented that it should cancel each such un-arranging. [0014]

[Means for Solving the Problem] Like York for universal joints indicated by the utility model registration No. 2572521 official report mentioned above, York for universal joints of this invention bends a metal thickness plate, forms, changes, and changes from one pair of circular holes of this alignment to each other who was formed in the attachment substrate section, one pair of support arms which bent at the right angle mostly in this direction from this attachment substrate section, and the point of both [these] the support arm. Especially, in York for universal joints of this invention, the edge of the above-mentioned attachment substrate section is made into the superposition section which has the thickness for the two above-mentioned metal thickness plates mostly by turning up the part projected to the method of outside [lateral surface / of each above-mentioned support arm] 180 degrees. With this, each above-mentioned support arm is formed in the condition of having bent from the toe of each [these] superposition section. And the mounting hole is formed in each [these] superposition section.

[Function] Since it is not necessary to form a bore in the base of each support arm in the case of York for universal joints of this invention constituted as mentioned above, the rigidity of each [these] support arm is fully securable. Moreover, even when the height of each [these] support arm is small, a circular hole required for the point of each [these] support arm can be formed. And by carrying out press forming of the metal plate, in spite of the structure which can be manufactured easily and cheaply, the phase covering the circumferencial direction of the circular hole for spider support and a mounting hole can be made in agreement, and the degree of freedom of a design as the whole universal joint can be secured.

[Embodiment of the Invention] <u>Drawing 1</u> -5 show the 1st example of the gestalt of operation of this invention. First, <u>drawing 1</u> -3 explain about the structure of York for universal joints of the 1st example. This York 34 forms the

whole in one by bending that whose thickness is about 5.5–6.5mm with the hot rolling mild steel plate specified to JIS. This York 34 is equipped with one pair of support arms 30a and 30a of the two pars intermedia location of plate-like attachment substrate section 29a and this attachment substrate section 29a which bent at the right angle mostly in this direction from a both-ends approach part, respectively. Each [these] support plate sections 30a and 30a are incurvated in the shape of [which made the concave surface the field which counters mutually] a partial cylinder, and are aiming at reservation of flexural rigidity. And circular holes 25b and 25b are mutually formed in the point of both [these] the support arms 30a and 30a at this alignment, respectively. Moreover, the circular feed hole 35 is formed in the center section of the above-mentioned attachment substrate section 29a.

[0017] The edge of the above-mentioned attachment substrate section 29a is made into the superposition sections 36 and 36 which have the thickness for the two above-mentioned hot rolling mild steel plates mostly by turning up the part projected to the method of outside about the diameter direction of the above-mentioned feed hole 35 180 degrees rather than the lateral surface of each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a. That is, turn up 180 degrees with small radius of curvature as much as possible, respectively in the direction which approaches mutually the part corresponding to the both ends of the above-mentioned attachment substrate section 29a in the two pars intermedia location of this hot rolling mild steel plate, a clinch part is made to contact the pars intermedia both-

ends approach part of the above-mentioned attachment substrate section 29a, and it is considering as each abovementioned superposition sections 36 and 36. And each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a are formed in this direction in the condition of having bent at the right angle mostly, from the toe of each [these] superposition sections 36 and 36. And the **** holes 37 and 37 which are mounting holes are formed in each [these] superposition sections 36 and 36. In addition, it has prevented that the above-mentioned hot rolling mild steel plates which performed welding 38 and 38 to the edges-on-both-sides section of each above-mentioned superposition sections 36 and 36, and were piled up in each [these] superposition section 36 and 36 parts shift and run by the example of illustration in the direction of a field. By this configuration, the rigidity of each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a which continued from each above-mentioned superposition sections 36 and 36 is secured. [0018] Next, drawing 4 explains about the manufacture approach of York 34 of this invention of having the above configurations. First, the first material 39 as shown in drawing 4 is built by performing punching processing by the press to the above-mentioned hot rolling mild steel plate used as an ingredient. This first material 39 has both-sides Itabe 41 and 41 who turns into each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a to both ends in central Itabe 40 who becomes the above-mentioned attachment substrate section 29a in the die-length direction (longitudinal direction of drawing 4) center section, respectively. Moreover, the continuation section of the both ends of the above-mentioned central plate section 40 and each [these] both-sides Itabe 41 and 41 is taken as the necks 42 and 42 with narrow width of face. Each [these] necks 42 and 42 have the duty which makes small the outerdiameter dimension of each [these] superposition sections 36 and 36, makes small the radius of gyration of abovementioned York 34, and makes small installation space of the elastic universal joint 43 (refer to drawing 5 mentioned later) incorporating this York 34 while making easy formation of each above-mentioned superposition sections 36

[0019] The first above material 39 bends the pars intermedia of the turned-up part about 90 degrees in this direction mutually, and uses it as the second material which is not illustrated while it turns up the both ends 180 degrees in the direction which approaches mutually in each [these] neck 39 and 39 parts, and it curves in a part of this second material — making — each — a part — while considering as each cylindrical above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a and forming circular holes 25b and 25b and the **** holes 37 and 37, welding 38 and 38 is performed and it considers as York 34 as shown in drawing 1 –3.

[0020] York 34 which is built as mentioned above and which has the above configurations constitutes the elastic universal joint 43 combining other members, as shown in <u>drawing 5</u>. This elastic universal joint 43 is formed in the serial between 1 pair of revolving-shaft (steering shaft) 44a which should be connected mutually, and 44b. Above-mentioned York 34 constitutes the universal joint 46 of a spider type with another York 45 fixed to the edge of revolving-shaft 44a [on the other hand / (method of the right of <u>drawing 5</u>)]. This another base half portion (right half part of <u>drawing 5</u>) of York 45 is fixed to the edge of this revolving-shaft 44a by binding a bolt 47 to the edge of the above-mentioned revolving-shaft 44a, where serration engagement is carried out. Moreover, to the circular hole 49 prepared in the point of one pair of support arms 48 prepared in the point half section (left half part of <u>drawing 5</u>) of York 45 according to above, the edge of diameter direction 2 of four edges established in spider 6a is supported free [rotation] by the shell mold needle bearing 50, respectively.

[0021] On the other hand, to the circular holes 25b and 25b formed in the point of the support arms 30a and 30a of York 34 of above-mentioned this invention, remaining two edges of the above-mentioned spider 6a are supported free [rotation] by the shell mold needle bearing 50, respectively. It has combined free [transfer of turning effort], carrying out rocking displacement of the one above-mentioned pair of York 34 and 45 comrades by this configuration. In addition, it has prevented that fit the thrust piece 51 made of synthetic resin in four edges established in the above-mentioned spider 6a, respectively, and each end face of the above-mentioned spider 6a and the inside of the shell 52 and 52 which constitutes each above-mentioned shell mold needle bearings 50 and 50 rub against them. In addition, a configuration and an operation of the universal joint of a spider type are common knowledge from the former, and since it is not the summary of this invention, either, detailed explanation is omitted. [0022] Moreover, joint immobilization of the two diameter direction opposite side location of coupling member 3a constituted in the round ring shape by elastic material, such as an elastomer like rubber, respectively is carried out at each superposition section 36 and 36 parts which were prepared in the both ends of attachment substrate

section 29a of York 34 of above-mentioned this invention. For this reason, inner fitting of the color 53 built in the shape of [which has bigger die length than the thickness of this coupling member 3a with the ingredient which has sufficient reinforcement, such as a metal,] a cylinder is carried out to through-hole 12a formed in the two diameter direction opposite side location of this coupling member 3a. Therefore, ****** (right half part of drawing 5) of each [these] color 53 is projected from one side of the above-mentioned coupling member 3a. Moreover, the code 54 made from polyester is wound around the inner skin part of the above-mentioned through-hole 12a in the shape of a cylinder, and it changes, and is made the above-mentioned coupling member 3a and one.

[0023] Moreover, by the product made of synthetic resin, it shakes to ****** of the above-mentioned color 53 [shaft orientations], and the cylinder-like spacer 55 is attached outside it that there is nothing. And the point of the second bolt 14a and 14a which inserted in the back plates 56 and 56 prepared in the two diameter direction opposite side location of the other sides of the above-mentioned coupling member 3a and the above-mentioned color 53 is screwed in the **** hole 37 formed in each above-mentioned superposition sections 36 and 36, and is bound further. In above-mentioned York 34, the above-mentioned coupling member 3a will be in the condition that joint immobilization was carried out firmly, in this condition. Since each above-mentioned **** hole 37 is formed in the superposition sections 36 and 36 which have the thickness for said two hot rolling mild steel plates, even if it does not perform processing to which especially costs, such as burring, increase, in the case of York 34 of this invention, the die length of each [these] **** hole 37 is secured, and the reinforcement of the screwing section with each second bolt 14a and 14a of the above can be secured to it.

[0024] Moreover, the same flange 2a as the flange 2 included in structure conventionally shown in the abovementioned drawing 8 -9 is fixed to the edge of revolving-shaft 44b of another side (left of drawing 5). In the example of illustration, the above-mentioned flange 2a is fixed to the edge of the above-mentioned revolving-shaft 44b by fixing the joint 57 which fixed this flange 2a to the edge of the above-mentioned revolving-shaft 44a by binding of a bolt 58, where serration engagement is carried out. And joint immobilization of the stopper plate 66 is carried out at this flange 2a. The joint structure of these flange 2a and the stopper plate 66 is the same as the joint structure of York 34 and coupling member 3a which were mentioned above almost. That is, inner fitting of the ***** of a sleeve is carried out to the through-hole formed in the location which shifted from said through-hole 12a to the circumferencial direction 90 degrees in a part of this coupling member 3a, and spacers 59 and 59 are attached outside the part projected from this through-hole in other halfs section which is this sleeve further. And the above-mentioned flange 2a and the stopper plate 66 are combined by screwing a nut 61 in the part projected from one side (right lateral of drawing 5) of this stopper plate 66, and binding with the point of first bolt 7a which inserted in the through-hole and back-plate 56a which were formed in the both ends of the above-mentioned flange 2a, the above-mentioned sleeve, and the through-hole formed in the above-mentioned stopper plate 66 further. [0025] Notching 62 is formed in the location adjusted in the spacer 55 which constitutes the bond part of abovementioned York 34 and coupling member 3a from a two diameter direction opposite side location of this stopper plate 66, respectively. Width of face of this notching 62 covering the circumferencial direction of the abovementioned coupling member 3a is made somewhat larger than the outer diameter of the above-mentioned spacer 55. Therefore, it twists and the variation rate covering a direction of the above-mentioned flange 2a and said York 34 is possible only within limits (it is magnitude sufficient for oscillating absorption) which each above-mentioned spacer 55 can move by the inside of each notching 62. The elastic deformation of the above-mentioned coupling member 3a becomes excessive, and this coupling member 3a seems not to damage for this reason.

[0026] Moreover, the short cylinder-like lobe 63 is formed in the center section of the above-mentioned stopper plate 66 in the example of illustration. Where the elastic universal joint 43 is assembled, this lobe 63 becomes the feed hole 35 and this alignment which were formed in the center section of attachment substrate section 29a which constitutes above-mentioned York 34, and will be in the condition of having been inserted into this feed hole 35. And the bush 64 made from elastic material, such as polyurethane rubber, is pinched in the condition of having compressed elastically, between the inner circumference edge of this feed hole 35, and the peripheral face of the above-mentioned lobe 63. Above-mentioned York 34 makes it hard to prevent that the medial axis of the above-mentioned feed hole 35 and the medial axis of a lobe 63 shift by forming such a bush 64, and to bend to revolving-shaft 44b of said another side.

[0027] It is constituted as mentioned above, and in the case of York 34 of this example used in the condition of having included in the elastic universal joint 43 as mentioned above, since the bores 31 and 31 which were prepared in the base of each of said support arms 30a and 30a conventionally which was shown in above-mentioned drawing 12 in the case of structure are not formed, the rigidity of each [these] support arms 30a and 30a is fully securable. Especially, in this example, since each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a are incurvated in the shape of a partial cylinder while performing welding 38 and 38 to the both ends of each of said superposition sections 36 and 36, even if it does not enlarge especially width of face of each above-mentioned superposition sections 36 and 36, the rigidity of each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a can be raised more.

[0028] Moreover, even when the height of each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a is small, the circular holes 25b and 25b required for the point of each [these] support arms 30a and 30a can be formed. For example, the die length L34 (drawing 2) of above-mentioned York 34 is set to about 70-74mm by the case where the general elastic universal joint 43 for passenger cars is constituted. Spacing D30a (drawing 1) of the lateral surface of one pair of support arms 30a and 30a is set to about 41-42mm. Bore R25b (drawing 3) of each above-mentioned circular holes 25b and 25b is set to about 15-16mm. When the pitch P37 (drawing 2) of one pair of said screw-thread holes 37 and 37 is set to about 50-52mm, height H25b (drawing 3) from the base of said attachment

substrate section 29a to the core of each above-mentioned circular holes 25b and 25b can be made small to about 30mm.

[0029] York 34 of this invention and by carrying out press forming of said hot rolling mild steel plate The circular holes 25b and 25b for said spider 6a support formed in the point of each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a in spite of the structure which can be manufactured easily and cheaply. It is a mounting hole and the phase covering a circumferencial direction with the screw-thread hole 37 for making the point of each of said second bolt 14a and 14a screw can be made in agreement. For this reason, the trouble which produces this phase conventionally like structure in the thing which were shown in the above-mentioned drawing 8 -9, and which is not made in agreement is abolished, and the degree of freedom of a design as the whole elastic universal joint can be secured. Moreover, the path of insertion of the second bolt 7a and 14a is made in agreement in the example of illustration for a start (from the left of drawing 5 to the right). Even when for this reason the tooth space of the attachment part of the elastic universal joint 43 is restricted and the path of insertion of the second bolt 7a and 14a is regulated by the one direction for a start [above-mentioned], the attachment activity of the above-mentioned elastic universal joint 43 can be done.

[0030] Next, drawing 6 -7 show the 2nd example of the gestalt of operation of this invention. York 34a of this example is bending the hot rolling mild steel plate which covers an overall length mostly and has the same width of face like the case of the 1st example mentioned above, and forms the support arms 30b and 30b and the superposition sections 36a and 36a per pair in one with attachment substrate section 29b, respectively. Unlike the case of the 1st example mentioned above, it has not welded to each [these] superposition sections 36a and 36a. Moreover, each above-mentioned support arms 30b and 30b are considered as as [plate-like], and are not incurvated. Moreover, a feed hole 35 ($rac{drawing 1}{2}$, 2, 5 reference) like the 1st example mentioned above is not formed in the center section of the above-mentioned attachment substrate section 29b. Furthermore, when spot facing 60 and 60 is given to the perimeter part of the **** holes 37 and 37, respectively at the lateral-surface both ends of the above-mentioned tie-down plate section 29b and the above-mentioned York 34a is attached to an elastic universal joint, it enables it to secure a color 53 and the contact area of the end face of spacers 55 and 55 (refer to drawing 5), and the lateral surface of the above-mentioned tie-down plate section 29a. Thus, in the example of the book to constitute, the outer diameter of the above-mentioned tie-down plate section 29b is large, and instead of the radius of gyration of the elastic universal joint obtained becoming large, and becoming low somewhat compared with the 1st example which the rigidity of each above-mentioned support arms 30a and 30a mentioned above, processing is easy and can aim at reduction of cost.

[0031] In addition, the structure of the 2nd example mentioned above and the structure of the 1st example mentioned above can also change and carry out combination suitably. That is, the existence of welding 38 and 38, the existence of spot facing 60 and 60, the existence of a feed hole 35, the configuration of the support arms 30a and 30b, etc. can change and carry out combination suitably. Moreover, not only **** holes 37 and 37 like illustration but a mere through-hole is sufficient as the mounting hole formed in the superposition sections 36 and 36a in each example. In this case, the point and nut of a bolt which inserted in the mounting hole which is a through-hole are made to screw. Therefore, the location which forms a mounting hole is made into the outer edge approach of the above-mentioned superposition sections 36 and 36a rather than the case where **** a mounting hole and it considers as holes 37 and 37 in order to prevent interference with this nut and the support arms 30a and 30b.

[0032]

[Effect of the Invention] It is the structure which can be built with low cost by performing press working of sheet metal to a metal plate, and lightweight-ization is attained holding sufficient reinforcement and attachment by the space moreover restricted can realize easy structure as York for universal joints of this invention was described above.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Briof	Dac	crintian	of the	Drawings	
Ibriei	Des	Cribtion	OI LITE	Drawingsi	

- [Drawing 1] The partial cutting front view showing the 1st example of the gestalt of operation of this invention.
- [Drawing 2] This top view.
- [Drawing 3] This side elevation.
- [Drawing 4] The top view of the first material built with the first process of fabrication operation.
- [Drawing 5] The partial cutting side elevation showing the condition of having included in the elastic universal joint.
- [Drawing 6] The top view showing the 2nd example of the gestalt of operation of this invention.
- [Drawing 7] The A-A sectional view of drawing 6.
- [Drawing 8] The decomposition perspective view of the elastic universal joint incorporating the 1st example of York known from the former.
- [Drawing 9] The perspective view showing the condition of similarly having assembled.
- [Drawing 10] The side elevation showing a busy condition similarly.
- [Drawing 11] The vertical section side elevation showing the 2nd example of conventional York.
- [Drawing 12] The perspective view showing this 3rd example.
- [Description of Notations]
- 1 Shaft
- 2 2a Flange
- 3 3a Coupling member
- 4 York
- 5 Steering Shaft
- 6 6a Spider
- 7 7a The first bolt
- 8 First Nut
- 9 First Notching
- 10 First Prevention Plate
- 11 Through-hole
- 12 12a Through-hole
- 13 Through-hole
- 14 14a The second bolt
- 15 Second Nut
- 16 Second Prevention Plate
- 17 Through-hole
- 18 Through-hole
- 19 York
- 20 Universal Joint
- 21 Connection Rod
- 22 First Sleeve
- 23 Second Notching
- 24 Second Sleeve
- 25, 25a, 25b Circular hole
- 26 York
- 27 Screw-Thread Hole
- 28 York
- 29, 29a, 29b Attachment substrate section
- 30, 30a, 30b Support arm
- 31 Bore
- 32 Piece of Attachment
- 33 Mounting Hole
- 34 34a York
- 35 Feed Hole
- 36 36a Superposition section
- 37 Screw-Thread Hole

- 38 Welding
- 39 First Material
- 40 Central Plate Section
- 41 Both-Sides Itabe
- 42 Neck
- 43 Elastic Universal Joint
- 44a, 44b Revolving shaft
- 45 York
- 46 Universal Joint
- 47 Bolt
- 48 Support Arm
- 49 Circular Hole
- 50 Shell Mold Needle Bearing
- 51 Thrust Piece
- 52 Shell
- 53 Color
- 54 Code
- 55 Spacer
- 56 56a Back plate
- 57 Joint
- 58 Bolt
- 59 Spacer
- 60 Spot Facing
- 61 Nut
- 62 Notching
- 63 Lobe
- 64 Bush
- 65 Through-hole
- 66 Stopper Plate

[Translation done.]

(19)日本国特許庁 (JP)

(12) 公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号 特開2001-12490 (P2001-12490A)

(43)公開日 平成13年1月16日(2001.1.16)

(51)	Int.	CI.	7
(01)	ш.	\sim	

識別記号

FI

テーマコード(参考)

F 1 6 D 3/26

B 2 1 D 53/86

F 1 6 D 3/26

X

B 2 1 D 53/86

Z

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数1 OL (全 8 頁)

(21) 出願番

特願平11-180297

(71)出願人 000004204

日本精工株式会社

(22)出願日 平成11年6月25日(1999.6.25)

東京都品川区大崎1丁目6番3号

(72) 発明者 関根 博

群馬県前橋市総社町一丁目8番1号 日本

精工株式会社内

(74)代理人 100087457

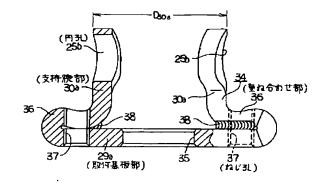
弁理士 小山 武男 (外1名)

(54) 【発明の名称】 自在継手用ヨーク

(57)【要約】

【課題】 容易に且つ安価に造れ、しかも組み付け作業 が容易なる構造で、十分な剛性を確保する。

【解決手段】 自在継手用のヨーク34は、金属板をプレス成形する事により造る。取付基板部29aの両側に、重ね合わせ部36、36を介して、同方向に1対の支持腕部30a、30aを折り曲げ形成している。これら各支持腕部30a、30aの先端部に、十字軸枢支用の円孔25b、25bを形成している。又、上記各重ね合わせ部36、36に、上記ヨーク34と他の部材とを結合するボルトを螺合させる為のねじ孔37、37等の取付孔を形成している。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 金属厚板を折り曲げ形成して成り、取付 基板部と、この取付基板部から同方向にほぼ直角に折れ 曲がった1対の支持腕部と、これら両支持腕部の先端部 に形成された、互いに同心の1対の円孔とから成る自在 棋手用ヨークに於いて、上記取付基板部の端部は上記各 支持腕部の外側面よりも外方に突出した部分を180度 折り返す事により、ほぼ上記金属厚板2枚分の厚さを有 する重ね合わせ部とすると共に、上記各支持腕部は、こ れら各重ね合わせ部の内端部から折れ曲がった状態で形 10 第二のボルト14、14、第二のナット15、15及 成しており、これら各重ね合わせ部に取付孔を形成して いる事を特徴とする自在継手用ヨーク。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】この発明に係る自在継手用ヨ ークは、例えば自動車のステアリング装置用の自在継手 を構成する為に利用する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】自動車用の操舵装置は、ステアリングホ ングギヤに伝達し、操舵車輪(一般的には前輪)に舵角 を付与する様に構成している。この様な操舵装置は、一 般的には機械式の伝達機構により構成している為、その ままでは、悪路走行等によって操舵車輪に加わった振動 が、ステアリングギヤやステアリングシャフトを介して ステアリングホイールにまで伝達されてしまう。

【0003】この様に、悪路走行等に伴う振動が、ステ アリングホイールにまで伝達された場合、運転者に不快 感を与える為、例えば特開昭61-197820号公報 に開示されている様に、ステアリングシャフトの端部に 弾性自在継手を設ける事でこの振動を吸収し、操舵車輪 の振動がそのままステアリングホイールにまで伝わらな い様にしている。

【0004】図8~9は、上記公報に記載されたステア リングシャフト用の弾性自在継手を示している。図示し ないステアリングギヤに通じる軸1の端部に、フランジ ・2を固定している。このフランジ2は、ゴム等の弾性材 製のカップリング部材3を介して、本発明による改良の 対象となるヨーク4に連結している。弾性継手は、この カップリング部材3の弾性により、振動を吸収する。 又、上記ヨーク4とステアリングシャフト5(使用状態 を示す図10参照)の端部とを、十字軸6(図10)を 介して結合自在としている。

【0005】上記フランジ2と上記カップリング部材3 とは、直径方向反対側2個所位置で、第一の結合手段に より結合している。この第一の結合手段は、第一のボル ト7、7、第一のナット8、8及び、直径方向反対位置 2箇所に円弧状の第一の切り欠き9、9を有する欠円状 に形成された第一の抑え板 10 により構成している。即

11、11を挿通した第一のボルト7、7は、カップリ ング部材3に互いに等間隔に形成された4個の通孔6 5、12のうち、直径方向反対位置に存在する1対の通 孔65、65を貫通し、上記第一の抑え板10の両端部 に形成した通孔13、13を貫通してから、その先端部 に第一のナット8、8を螺合し、緊締している。

【0006】一方、上記ヨーク4と上記カップリング部 材3とは、やはり直径方向反対位置2個所で、第二の結 合手段によって結合している。この第二の結合手段は、 び、上記第一の抑え板10と同様の欠円状に形成された 第二の抑え板16により構成している。即ち、ヨーク4 基端の両端部2個所位置に形成した通孔17を挿通した 第二のボルト14、14は、カップリング部材3に形成 された上記4個の通孔65、12のうち、残りの通孔1 2、12を貫通し、上記第二の抑え板16の両端部に形 成した通孔18、18を貫通してから、その先端部に第 二のナット15、15を螺合し、緊締している。

【0007】この結果、軸1の端部に固定したフランジ イールの動きをステアリングシャフトを介してステアリ 20 2とヨーク4とは、図9に示す様に、弾性材製のカップ リング部材3を介して結合された状態となる。この様に 構成される弾性継手は、図10に示す様に、上記ヨーク 4と他のヨーク19とを、十字軸6を介して互いに変位 を自在に結合する事により、弾性自在継手とする。そし て、前記軸1を、別の自在継手20と連結ロッド21等 とを介して、ステアリングギヤ(図示せず)の入力軸に 結合する。

> 【0008】弾性自在継手をステアリング装置に、上述 の様に組み込んだ状態で、図示しないステアリングホイ ールを操作する事によりステアリングシャフト5を回動 させ、十字軸6を介してヨーク4を回転させると、この 回転が上記カップリング部材3を介してフランジ2に伝 わり、このフランジ2を固定した軸1が回転する。そし てこの回転が、自在継手20、連結ロッド21を介して ステアリングギヤに伝達され、前記操舵輪への舵角付与 が行なわれる。上記カップリング部材3は、ゴム等の弾 性材により造られている為、操舵車輪から軸1に振動が 伝わった場合には、カップリング部材 3 が回転方向及び 軸方向に弾性変形してとの振動を吸収し、ステアリング 40 シャフト5に接続されるヨーク4が振動する事を防止す

【0009】尚、前記第一のボルト7、7が挿通された 第一のスリーブ22、22は、第二の抑え板16に形成 された第二の切り欠き23、23に、第二のボルト1 4、14が挿通された第二のスリーブ24、24は、第 一の抑え板10に形成された第一の切り欠き9、9に、 それぞれ係合している。そして、前記フランジ2とヨー ク4との捩り方向に亙る変位は、各スリーブ22、24 が各切り欠き23、9の内側で移動できる範囲内(振動 ち、上記フランジ2の両端部2個所位置に形成した通孔 50 吸収の為には十分な大きさである)でのみ、可能であ

3

る。との為、上記カップリング部材3の弾性変形量が過大となり、このカップリング部材3が破損する様な事はない。

[0010]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上述の様に構成され作用する、ステアリングシャフト用の弾性自在継手に組み込まれたヨーク4の場合、弾性自在継手の構造によっては、カップリング部材3に結合する為の第二のボルト14、14を挿通する為の通孔17と、十字軸6の端部を支持する為の円孔25、25の円周方向に亙る位相を一10致させる必要が生じるが、図8~9に示した従来形状のヨーク4の場合、これら両孔17、25の位相を一致させる事ができない。この様な不都合を生じる事は、実開昭57-172930号公報に記載された発明の場合も同様である。

【0011】そこで従来は、金属材に鍛造加工を施す事により、図11に示す様なヨーク26を造っていた。この図11に示したヨーク26は、全体形状を鍛造加工により整えると共に、前記ボルト14、14(図8~10)を螺合させる為のねじ孔27、27と、前記十字軸206(図10)の端部を支持する為の円孔25a、25aとを形成している。ところが、この様な鍛造加工によりヨーク26を造る場合、鍛造加工後に同図の鎖線部分を切除して寸法精度を確保する必要がある等、製作が面倒で、コストが嵩んでしまう。

【0012】これに対して実用新案登録第2572521号公報には、図12に示す様なヨーク28が記載されている。このヨーク28は、金属厚板を折り曲げ形成して成り、取付基板部29と、この取付基板部29の両端から同方向にほぼ直角に折れ曲がった1対の支持腕部30、30と、これら両支持腕部30、30の先端部に形成された、互いに同心の1対の円孔25a、25aとから成る。更に、上記図12に示した自在継手用ヨークの場合には、上記両支持腕部30、30の基部の幅方向中間部に透孔31、31が存在し、これら各透孔31、31を形成する為に上記金属厚板の一部を上記各支持腕部30、30に対して直角に折り曲げた1対の取付片32、32が、上記取付基板部29と同一平面に存在している。そして、これら各取付片32、32の先端部に、それぞれ取付孔33、33を形成している。

【0013】上述した様な、図12に示したヨーク28の場合には、前記図8~11に示したヨーク4、26の様な不都合がない代わりに、多少なりとも上記各支持腕部30、30の剛性が低下する事が避けられない。この為、パワーステアリングを持たない自動車用の場合、或は大型自動車用の場合等、ヨーク28を介して伝達するトルクが大きくなる場合には、金属厚板の厚さを大きくする必要が生じる等、必ずしも有効な軽量化を図れない場合がある。又、上記各支持腕部30、30の基部に上記各透孔31、31が存在する分、上記各円孔25a、

25 a の形成位置が限定される。この為、上記各支持腕部30、30の高さを或る程度(各透孔31、31と円孔25a、25aとが干渉しない程度に)大きくする必要が生じ、その分、これら各支持腕部30、30の剛性等に並びに小型、軽量化が難しくたる。本登明の自在維

確保並びに小型・軽量化が難しくなる。本発明の自在維 手用ヨークは、この様な不都合を何れも解消すべく発明 したものである。

[0014]

【課題を解決する為の手段】本発明の自在継手用ヨークは、上述した実用新案登録第2572521号公報に記載された自在継手用ヨークと同様に、金属厚板を折り曲げ形成して成り、取付基板部と、この取付基板部から同方向にほぼ直角に折れ曲がった1対の支持腕部と、これら両支持腕部の先端部に形成された、互いに同心の1対の円孔とから成る。特に、本発明の自在継手用ヨークに於いては、上記取付基板部の端部は上記各支持腕部の外側面よりも外方に突出した部分を180度折り返す事により、ほぼ上記金属厚板2枚分の厚さを有する重ね合わせ部としている。これと共に、上記各支持腕部は、これら各重ね合わせ部の内端部から折れ曲がった状態で形成している。そして、これら各重ね合わせ部に取付孔を形成している。

[0015]

【作用】上述の様に構成する本発明の自在継手用ヨークの場合、各支持腕部の基部に透孔を形成する必要がない為、これら各支持腕部の剛性を十分に確保できる。又、これら各支持腕部の高さが小さい場合でも、これら各支持腕部の先端部に必要な円孔を形成できる。しかも、金属板をプレス成形する事により、容易且つ安価に製作できる構造にも拘らず、十字軸支持用の円孔と取付孔との円周方向に亙る位相を一致させる事ができて、自在継手全体としての設計の自由度を確保できる。

[0016]

【発明の実施の形態】図1~5は、本発明の実施の形態の第1例を示している。先ず、図1~3により、第1例の自在継手用ヨークの構造に就いて説明する。とのヨーク34は、JISに規定する熱間圧延軟鋼板で厚さが5.5~6.5m程度のものを折り曲げる事により、全体を一体に形成している。このヨーク34は、平板状の40取付基板部29aと、この取付基板部29aの中間部2個所位置のそれぞれ両端寄り部分から同方向にほぼ直角に折れ曲がった1対の支持腕部30a、30aは、互いに対向する面を凹面とした、部分円筒状に湾曲させて、曲げ剛性の確保を図っている。そして、これら両支持腕部30a、30aの先端部にそれぞれ円孔25b、25bを、互いに同心に形成している。又、上記取付基板部29aの中央部には、円形の中心孔35を形成している。

【0017】上記取付基板部29aの端部は、上記各支 50 持腕部30a、30aの外側面よりも、上記中心孔35 の直径方向に関して外方に突出した部分を180度折り 返す事により、ほぼ上記熱間圧延軟鋼板2枚分の厚さを 有する重ね合わせ部36、36としている。即ち、この 熱間圧延軟鋼板の中間部2個所位置で上記取付基板部2 9 a の両端部に対応する部分を、互いに近づく方向にそ れぞれ可及的に小さな曲率半径で180度折り返し、折 り返し部分を上記取付基板部29 aの中間部両端寄り部 分に当接させて、上記各重ね合わせ部36、36として いる。そして、上記各支持腕部30a、30aは、これ ら各重ね合わせ部36、36の内端部から同方向にほぼ 10 直角に折れ曲がった状態で形成している。そして、これ ら各重ね合わせ部36、36に、取付孔であるねじ孔3 7、37を形成している。尚、図示の例では、上記各重 ね合わせ部36、36の両側縁部に溶接38、38を施 して、これら各重ね合わせ部36、36部分で重ね合わ せられた、上記熱間圧延軟鋼板同士が面方向にずれ動く 事を防止している。この構成により、上記各重ね合わせ 部36、36から連続した上記各支持腕部30a、30 aの剛性を確保している。

【0018】次に、上述の様な構成を有する、本発明のヨーク34の製造方法に就いて、図4により説明する。先ず、材料となる上記熱間圧延軟鋼板にプレスによる打ち抜き加工を施す事により、図4に示す様な第一素材39を造る。この第一素材39は、長さ方向(図4の左右方向)中央部に上記取付基板部29aとなる中央板部40を、両端部に上記各支持腕部30a、30aとなる両側板部41、41を、それぞれ有する。又、上記中央板部40の両端部とこれら各両側板部41、41との連続部は、幅が狭いくびれ部42、42としている。これら各くびれ部42、42は、上記各重ね合わせ部36、36の形成作業を容易にすると共に、これら各重ね合わせ部36、36の形成作業を容易にすると共に、これら各重ね合わせ部36、36の形成作業を容易にすると共に、これら各重ね合わせ部36、36の形成作業を容易にすると共に、これら各重ね合わせ部36、36の形成作業を容易にすると共に、これら各重ね合わせ部36、36の形成作業を容易にすると共に、これら各重ね合わせ部36、36の形成作業を容易にすると共に、これら各重ね合わせる36、36の外径寸法を小さくして、上記ヨーク34の回転半径を小さくし、このヨーク34を組み込んだ弾性自在継手43(後述する図5参照)の設置空間を小さくする役目を有する。

【0019】上述の様な第一素材39はその両端部を、これら各くびれ部39、39部分で互いに近づく方向に180度折り返すと共に、折り返された部分の中間部を互いに同方向にほぼ90度折り曲げて、図示しない第二素材とする。そして、この第二素材の一部を湾曲させてそれぞれが部分円筒状である上記各支持腕部30a、30aとし、円孔25b、25b及びねじ孔37、37を形成すると共に、溶接38、38を施して、図1~3に示す様なヨーク34とする。

【0020】上述の様にして造る、前述の様な構成を有するヨーク34は、図5に示す様に他の部材と組み合わりと結合固定された状態となる。本発明のヨーク34のせて、弾性自在維手43を構成する。との弾性自在維手43は、互いに接続すべき1対の回転軸(ステアリングおけている。上記ヨーク34は、一方(図5の右方)の回転軸450 なくても、これら各ねじ孔37の長さを確保して、上記

4 a の端部に固定した別のヨーク45と共に、十字軸式の自在継手46を構成している。この別のヨーク45の基半部(図5の右半部)は、上記回転軸44aの端部にセレーション係合した状態でボルト47を緊締する事により、この回転軸44aの端部に固定している。又、上記別のヨーク45の先半部(図5の左半部)に設けた1対の支持腕部48の先端部に設けた円孔49には、十字軸6aに設けた4個所の端部のうちの直径方向反対側2個所の端部を、それぞれシェル型ニードル軸受50によ

り、回転自在に支持している。

6

【0022】又、上記本発明のヨーク34の取付基板部29aの両端部に設けた各重ね合わせ部36、36部分には、それぞれゴムの如きエラストマー等の弾性材により円輪状に構成したカップリング部材3aの直径方向反対側2個所位置を、結合固定している。この為に、このカップリング部材3aの直径方向反対側2個所位置に形のした通孔12aに、金属等十分な強度を有する材料によりこのカップリング部材3aの厚さよりも大きな長さを有する円筒状に造った、カラー53を内嵌している。従って、これら各カラー53の片半部(図5の右半部)は、上記カップリング部材3aの片面から突出している。又、上記通孔12aの内周面部分には、ポリエステル製のコード54を円筒状に巻回して成り上記カップリング部材3aと一体にしている。

【0023】又、上記カラー53の片半部には合成樹脂製で円筒状の間座55を、軸方向に亙るがたつきなく外嵌している。そして、上記カップリング部材3aの他面の直径方向反対側2個所位置に設けた座板56、56と上記カラー53とを挿通した第二のボルト14a、14aの先端部を、上記各重ね合わせ部36、36に形成したねじ孔37に螺合し、更に緊締している。この状態で上記カップリング部材3aは上記ヨーク34に、しっかりと結合固定された状態となる。本発明のヨーク34の場合には、前記熱間圧延軟鋼板2枚分の厚さを有する重ね合わせ部36、36に上記各ねじ孔37を形成している為、特にバーリング加工等のコストが嵩む加工を施されてよっても5名わじ孔37の原さを確保して、上記

各第二のボルト14 a、14 a との螺合部の強度を確保 できる。

【0024】又、他方(図5の左方)の回転軸44bの 端部には、前述の図8~9に示した従来構造に組み込ん でいたフランジ2と同様のフランジ2 aを固定してい る。図示の例では、上記回転軸44aの端部にこのフラ ンジ2aを固設した継手57を、セレーション係合させ た状態でボルト58の緊締により固定する事で、上記回 転軸44bの端部に上記フランジ2aを固定している。 そして、このフランジ2aに、ストッパプレート66を 10 結合固定している。これらフランジ2aとストッパプレ ート66との結合構造は、上述したヨーク34とカップ リング部材3aとの結合構造とほぼ同様である。即ち、 とのカップリング部材3aの一部で前記通孔12aから 円周方向に90度ずれた位置に形成した通孔にスリーブ の片半部を内嵌し、更にこのスリーブの他半部でこの通 孔から突出した部分に間座59、59を外嵌している。 そして、上記フランジ2 a の両端部に形成した通孔と座 板56aと上記スリーブと上記ストッパプレート66に 形成した通孔とを挿通した第一のボルト7aの先端部 で、このストッパプレート66の片面(図5の右側面) から突出した部分にナット61を螺合し、更に緊締する 事で、上記フランジ2aとストッパプレート66とを結

【0025】このストッパプレート66の直径方向反対 側2個所位置で上記ヨーク34とカップリング部材3a との結合部を構成する間座55に整合する位置には、そ れぞれ切り欠き62を形成している。上記カップリング 部材3aの円周方向に亙る、この切り欠き62の幅は、 上記間座55の外径よりも少し大きくしている。従っ て、上記フランジ2aと前記ヨーク34との捩り方向に 亙る変位は、上記各間座55が各切り欠き62の内側で 移動できる範囲内(振動吸収の為には十分な大きさであ る)でのみ、可能である。この為、上記カップリング部 材3aの弾性変形量が過大となり、このカップリング部 材3aが破損する様な事はない。

【0026】又、図示の例では、上記ストッパプレート 66の中央部に短円筒状の突出部63を形成している。 弾性自在継手43を組み立てた状態でとの突出部63 は、上記ヨーク34を構成する取付基板部29aの中央 40 部に形成した中心孔35と同心になって、この中心孔3 5内に挿入された状態となる。そして、この中心孔35 の内周縁と上記突出部63の外周面との間に、ウレタン ゴム等の弾性材製のブッシュ64を、弾性的に圧縮した 状態で挟持している。この様なブッシュ64を設ける事 により、上記中心孔35の中心軸と突出部63の中心軸 とがずれる事を防止し、前記他方の回転軸44bに対し て上記ヨーク34が折れ曲がりにくくしている。

【0027】前述の様に構成され、上述の様に弾性自在

34の場合には、前記各支持腕部30a、30aの基部 に、前述の図12に示した従来構造の場合に設けられて いた様な透孔31、31を形成していない為、これら各 支持腕部30a、30aの剛性を十分に確保できる。特 に、本例の場合には、前記各重ね合わせ部36、36の 両端部に溶接38、38を施すと共に、上記各支持腕部 30a、30aを部分円筒状に湾曲させているので、上 記各重ね合わせ部36、36の幅を特に大きくしなくて も、上記各支持腕部30a、30aの剛性をより向上さ せる事ができる。

【0028】又、上記各支持腕部30a、30aの高さ が小さい場合でも、これら各支持腕部30a、30aの 先端部に必要な円孔25b、25bを形成できる。例え ば、一般的な乗用車用の弾性自在継手43を構成する場 合で、上記ヨーク34の長さし、(図2)を70~74 mm程度とし、1対の支持腕部30a、30aの外側面同 士の間隔D, 。 (図1)を41~42m程度とし、上記 各円孔25b、25bの内径Rュ。。 (図3)を15~1 6mm程度とし、前記1対のねじ孔37、37のピッチP 20 , (図2)を50~52mm程度とした場合に、前記取付 基板部29aの底面から上記各円孔25b、25bの中 心までの高さHスッ。(図3)を30㎜程度にまで小さく できる。

【0029】しかも、本発明のヨーク34は、前記熱間 圧延軟鋼板をプレス成形する事により、容易且つ安価に 製作できる構造にも拘らず、上記各支持腕部30a、3 0 a の先端部に形成した、前記十字軸 6 a 支持用の円孔 25 b、25 bと、取付孔であり、前記各第二のボルト 14a、14aの先端部を螺合させる為のねじ孔37と 30 の円周方向に亙る位相を一致させる事ができる。この 為、前述の図8~9に示した従来構造の様に、この位相 を一致させられない事で生じる面倒をなくして、弾性自 在継手全体としての設計の自由度を確保できる。又、図 示の例では、第一、第二のボルト7a、14aの挿入方 向を(図5の左から右に)一致させている。この為、弾 性自在継手43の組み付け部分のスペースが限られて、 上記第一、第二のボルト7a、14aの挿入方向が一方 向に規制される場合でも、上記弾性自在継手43の組み 付け作業を行なえる。

【0030】次に、図6~7は、本発明の実施の形態の 第2例を示している。本例のヨーク34aは、ほぼ全長 に互り同じ幅を有する熱間圧延軟鋼板を、上述した第1 例の場合と同様に折り曲げる事で、取付基板部29b と、それぞれ1対ずつの支持腕部30b、30b及び重 ね合わせ部36a、36aとを、一体に形成している。 上述した第1例の場合とは異なり、これら各重ね合わせ 部36a、36aには溶接を施してはいない。又、上記 各支持腕部30b、30bは平板状のままとし、湾曲さ せてはいない。又、上記取付基板部29bの中央部に **継手43に組み込んだ状態で使用される、本例のヨーク 50 は、上述した第1例の様な中心孔35(図1、2、5参**

10

4

昭)を形成してはいない。更に、上記取付板部29bの 外側面両端部でそれぞれねじ孔37、37の周囲部分に は座ぐり60、60を施して、上記ヨーク34aを弾性 自在維手に組み付けた場合に、カラー53及び間座5 5、55 (図5参照) の端面と上記取付板部29aの外 側面との当接面積を確保できる様にしている。この様に 構成する本例の場合、上記取付板部29bの外径が大き く、得られる弾性自在継手の回転半径が大きくなり、 又、上記各支持腕部30a、30aの剛性が上述した第 1例に比べて多少低くなる代わりに、加工が容易でコス 10 13

9

【0031】尚、上述した第2例の構造と前述した第1 例の構造とは、適宜組み合わせを変えて実施する事もで きる。即ち、溶接38、38の有無、座ぐり60、60 の有無、中心孔35の有無、支持腕部30a、30bの 形状等は、適宜組み合わせを変えて実施できる。又、各 例で、重ね合わせ部36、36aに形成する取付孔は、 図示の様なねじ孔37、37に限らず、単なる通孔でも 良い。この場合には、通孔である取付孔を挿通したボル トの先端部とナットとを螺合させる。従って、取付孔を 20 形成する位置は、このナットと支持腕部30a、30b との干渉を防止する為、取付孔をねじ孔37、37とす る場合よりも、上記重ね合わせ部36、36aの外端寄 りにする。

[0032]

トの低減を図れる。

【発明の効果】本発明の自在継手用ヨークは、以上に述 べた通り、金属板にプレス加工を施す事により低コスト で造れる構造であって、十分な強度を保持しつつ軽量化 を図り、しかも限られた空間への組付けが容易な構造を 実現できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】本発明の実施の形態の第1例を示す部分切断正 面図。
- 【図2】同平面図。
- 【図3】同側面図。
- 【図4】製造作業の第一工程で造る第一素材の平面図。
- 【図5】弾性自在継手に組み込んだ状態を示す部分切断 側面図。
- 【図6】本発明の実施の形態の第2例を示す平面図。
- 【図7】図6のA-A断面図。
- 【図8】従来から知られているヨークの第1例を組み込 んだ弾性自在継手の分解斜視図。
- 【図9】同じく組み立てた状態を示す斜視図。
- 【図10】同じく使用状態を示す側面図。
- 【図11】従来のヨークの第2例を示す縦断側面図。
- 【図12】同第3例を示す斜視図。

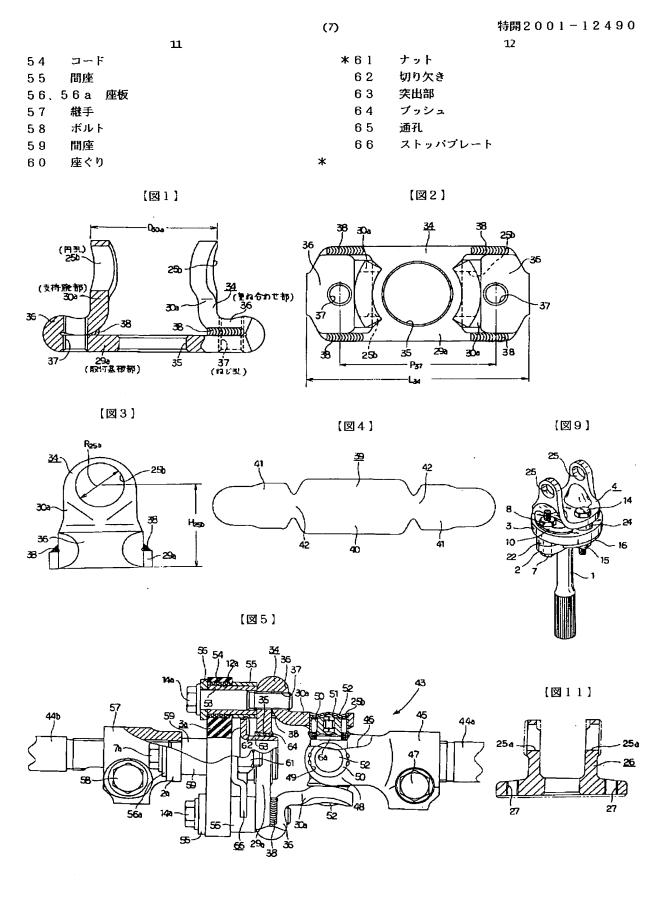
【符号の説明】

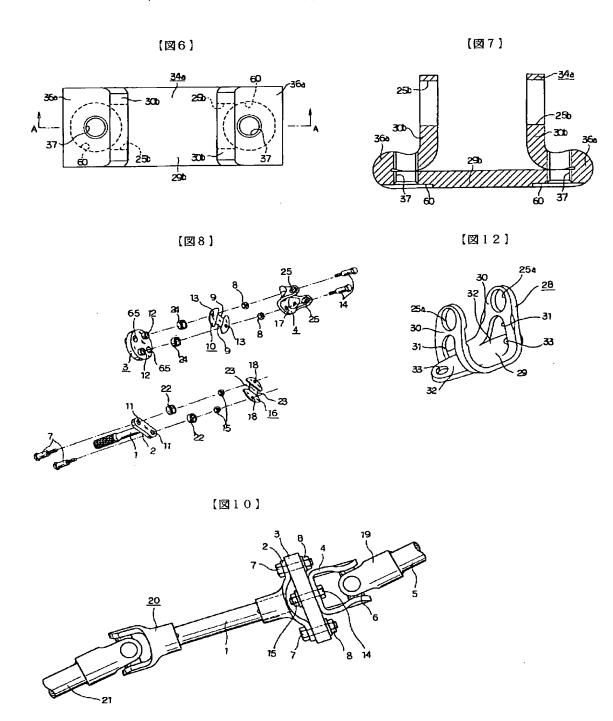
- 軸
- 2、2a フランジ
- 3、3a カップリング部材

- ステアリングシャフト
- 6、6 a 十字軸
- 7、7a 第一のボルト
- 第一のナット 8
- 第一の切り欠き
- 10 第一の抑え板
- 通孔 1 1
- 12、12a 通孔
- 涌孔
 - 14、14a 第二のボルト
 - 第二のナット 15
 - 第二の抑え板 16
 - 17 涌孔
 - 18 通孔
 - 19 ヨーク
- 2.0 自在継手
- 2 1 連結ロッド
- 第一のスリーブ 22
- 23 第二の切り欠き
- 24 第二のスリーブ
- 25、25a、25b 円孔
- 26 ヨーク
- ねじ孔 27
- ヨーク 28
- 29、29a、29b 取付基板部
- 30、30a、30b 支持腕部
- 3 1 透孔
- 3 2 取付片

30

- 33 取付孔
- 34、34a ヨーク
- 35 中心孔
- 36.36 a 重ね合わせ部
- 3 7 ねじ孔
- 38 溶接
- 39 第一素材
- 40 中央板部
- 両側板部 4 1
- 42 くびれ部
- 弹性自在継手 43 40
 - 44a、44b 回転軸
 - 45 ヨーク
 - 46 自在継手
 - 47 ボルト
 - 48 支持腕部
 - 49 四利.
 - 50 シェル型ニードル軸受
 - 5 1 スラストピース
 - 5 2 シェル
- 50 53 カラー





This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning Operations and is not part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

BLACK BORDERS

■ BLACK BORDERS
MAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
□ OTHER:

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.